



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Jewel Cave  
National Monument

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## Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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For Immediate Release

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### Jewel Cave Invites Hikers to National Trails Day® Celebration

Custer, SD – Tens of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts will be hitting trails across the country on Saturday, June 1 as they celebrate American Hiking Society's 21st National Trails Day®. On behalf of the National Park Service, Jewel Cave National Monument is proud to host two hiking events in the Black Hills.

For the ardent outdoor enthusiast, Hike the Canyon (Canyons Trail) begins at 9:00 a.m. This adventurous three-mile hike into the backcountry of Jewel Cave National Monument ventures along a natural trail with multiple interpretative stops. Ranging from the obvious fire scars to hands-on management practices on site, a park ranger will offer insight into the stories behind the scenery. Participants should wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring sunscreen, and furnish their own water and snacks.

Walking the Roof Trail starts at 2:00 p.m. and takes participants through a one-quarter mile of ponderosa pine forest, with scenic views of Lithograph and Hell Canyons. The trail meanders along an easy natural path. Along the route, hikers have the opportunity to witness the natural features that are symbolic to the Black Hills: dense timber stands, open meadows, forest wildflowers, and wildland fire scars that run through the rocky limestone canyons. This hike is geared for younger visitors that wish to expose their adult family members to the outdoors.

Superintendent Larry Johnson states, "We witnessed an amazing turnout for the guided hikes last year and were happy to see so many local visitors take advantage of recreating in their national monument. Spring wildflowers are blooming; numerous songbirds have returned to the area. It is a great time to explore the surface features of Jewel Cave." There is no pre-registration for either event; participants meet at the visitor center located 13 miles west of Custer, SD and 24 miles east of Newcastle, Wyoming on Hwy 16.

National Trails Day activities are available in all 50 states and also the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Events include hiking, pedaling, horseback riding, and paddling through some of America's most beautiful areas. The entire day is devoted to appreciating America's trails and the hard-working individuals who build and maintain them.

For more information, contact the visitor center at (605) 673-8300 or visit the Monument online at [www.nps.gov/jeca](http://www.nps.gov/jeca). For other NTD hikes in the local area, visit the American Hiking Society online at [www.americanhiking.org](http://www.americanhiking.org) and select South Dakota.

NPS

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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